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Introduction

Ecology contains a captivating whole language, thematic unit about saving our earth. At its core are three high-quality children's literature selections, *The Wump World*, *One Day in the Tropical Rain Forest*, and *50 Simple Things Kids Can Do to Save the Earth*. For each of these books, activities are included which set the stage for reading, encourage the enjoyment of the book, and extend the concepts gained. In addition, the theme is connected to the curriculum with activities in language arts (including daily writing suggestions), maths, science, social studies, art, music, and life skills (cooking, physical education, career awareness, etc.). Many of these activities encourage cooperative learning. Suggestions and patterns for bulletin boards and unit management tools are additional time savers for the busy teacher. Furthermore, directions for student-created Big Books and a culminating activity, which allow students to synthesize their knowledge in order to produce products that can be shared beyond the classroom, highlight this very complete teacher resource.

- literature selections**—summaries of three children's books with related lessons (complete with reproducible pages) that cross the curriculum
- poetry**—suggested selections and lessons enabling students to write and publish their own works
- planning guides**—suggestions for sequencing lessons each day of the unit
- writing ideas**—daily suggestions as well as writing activities across the curriculum, including Big Books
- bulletin board ideas**—suggestions and plans for student-created and/or interactive bulletin boards
- homework suggestions**—extending the unit to the child's home
- curriculum connections**—in language arts, maths, science, social studies, art, music, and life skills such as cooking, physical education, and career awareness
- group projects**—to foster cooperative learning
- a culminating activity**—which requires students to synthesize their learning to produce a product or engage in an activity that can be shared with others
- a bibliography**—suggesting additional literature and non-fiction books on the theme

The Wump World

by Bill Peet

Summary

In another world, smaller than our own world, lived a colony of creatures called Wumps. The Wumps lived simple, peaceful lives and grazed blissfully in the meadows. Then one day some potbellied monsters from a place one million miles away descended on the Wump World. Tiny creatures called Pollutians emerged from the flying monsters, and giant machines thundered out of the spaceships onto the meadow. The Wumps panicked and hid in underground tunnels while the Pollutians built huge factories, high-rise apartments, tall office buildings, and skyscrapers. Soon the air became difficult to breathe. Coughing and wheezing, the Pollutians complained to the World Chief who in turn sent scouts to find a new world. Once a suitable place was found, the Pollutians packed their bags and left as quickly as they had arrived. At first, the sudden silence shocked the Wumps, but finally they emerged from their tunnels. They were unprepared for what they saw: huge buildings, no trees or grass, and no sky. Wearily, the Wumps headed back towards the tunnel when a small, grassy meadow was sighted. Now there was hope. In time, the murky skies would clear up and the buildings would tumble down, but the Wump World would never be quite the same.

The outline below is a suggested plan for using the various activities that are presented in this unit. You can adapt these ideas to fit your own classroom situation.

Sample Plan

Day I

- Daily Writing Activities (page 52-54)
- Display ecology facts; discuss (page 6)
- Go on a Pollution Walk (see page 6)
- Read *The Wump World*
- Homework Activity: Find ecology articles

Day II

- Continue Daily Writing Activities
- Similarities Chart (page 6)
- Compare and Contrast worksheet (Page 9)
- Story Elements (page 10)
- Homework Activities: (page 6)

Day III

- Continue Daily Writing Activities
- Semantic Web (pages 11 and 12)

- Language: Compound Words (page 13)
- Polar Opposites (page 14)
- Maths: Fractional Terms (page 19)

Day IV

- Continue Daily Writing Activities
- Art Activity: 3-D Collage (page 8)
- Critical Thinking Activities (pages 15 and 16)
- Make a Wanted Poster (page 23)
- Language: It's Synonymous worksheet (page 24)

Day V

- Make New World Books (page 17)
- Cause and Effect (pages 21 and 22)
- Learn About the Author (page 8)